

System Leadership Team Meeting Discusses Board Consolidation Motion on Healthcare Agency Integration

By Kathleen Piché, L.C.S.W., Public Affairs Director



The monthly System Leadership Team (SLT) meeting at St. Anne's welcomed Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (DHS) Director Mitch Katz, M.D., who spoke on the L.A. County Board of Supervisor's Motion to consolidate the L.A. Departments of Mental Health, Public Health and Health Services.

In addition to Dr. Katz, Department of Mental Health Director, Marvin Southard, D.S.W. and Department of Public Health Chief Deputy Director, Cindy Harding, M.P.H., were available to discuss integration issues.

Dr. Katz introduced himself and explained that he has personal experience with mental illness: two of his siblings are Developmentally Disabled and his father cut his wrists when Dr. Katz was in high school.



Dr. Katz applauded the stakeholder process and emphasized that the three departments could learn much from each other. His goals include getting mentally ill persons off the streets and out of the jail system. He envisions creating 1,000 homes for the homeless in one year, with 10,000 housing units made available in the future. "With the combined budgets of \$7 billion, we can accomplish our goals," he suggested.

To see the answers to frequently asked questions about the proposed integration, check out the County website detailing all health integration information here:

<http://priorities.lacounty.gov/health-integration-faqs/>